

Minutes: Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting

Dec 17, 2013

Metro Courthouse, Media Room

BPAC Member Attendees: Amy Eskind, Tom Grooms, John Harkey, Kim Hawkins, Chaz Irvin, Rob Laird, John Norris, Freddie O'Connell, Keith Rawls, Peter Westerholm, Edwin Williamson, Russell Willis.

BPAC Member absences. Dov Hirsch, Tony Saunders, Debbie Thurman, & Brian Wray.

Metro employee attendees: Harold Burke, Mike Gilliland, & Marlene Purdue (Police) Michael Briggs (Planning), Don Reid & Jason Radinger (Public Works), Sandra Thomas-Trudo (Metro Health), and Joe Edgens (Metro Schools)

Advocacy groups: Austin Bauman (Nashville Bike Alliance). Adams Carroll, Nora Kern & Cary Rogers (Walk/Bike Nashville) Linda Marini & Robert Patchin (Hillsboro Belmont Neighborhood Assoc.)

Other: Leslie Mehan (NMPO), Clifton Ogden (Civic Engineering)

1. Chair Kim Hawkins called the meeting to order and asked Vice Chair John Harkey to take minutes.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes of the October 2012 Meeting were approved (motion by Peter Westerholm, second by Keith Rawls).
3. **Department updates.** Department Updates were sent by Planning, Parks, and Police prior to the meeting for review by BPAC members.
4. **Metro Public Works (MPW) Report.**
 - a) **New Bike Pedestrian Coordinator.** Jason Radinger, the new Metro Public Works bike/ped coordinator was introduced to BPAC by Don Reid. Mr. Radinger started his new position with Public Works in late October. Most recently, he worked with Collier Engineering, reviewing roadways for bike lanes, and prior to that, he was with MPW for 7 years. He spent the last 3 years at MPW as the bikeway program manager.
 - b) **Woodland Street Protected Bike Lanes.** The Woodland Street protected bike lane was discussed. A preliminary design had been drafted, running from Five points to 6th Street (a 0.8 mile length), but taking the route from 6th Street in to the Court House on Woodlawn has potential problems and does not have a preliminary design. A major issue is that the AMP is designed to come out Woodland to 5th and then cross over to Main. Should it be funded, the AMP would probably take the lane that might have been used for protected bike lanes. The design of the route on Woodland to 6th has both bike lanes on the same side of the road, with a buffer between the bike lanes and traffic lanes. Later, Bollards could be added to provide more protection. **Next Steps:** Review by Traffic and Parking and then solicitation of community input. Following that would be a determination of how to complete the route downtown (from 6th to the Courthouse).
 - c) **Traffic Calming Downtown and Near Park/Greenway entrances.** The BPAC proposal to slow speeds from 30 to 25 mph for downtown (inside the inner loop) and near park and greenway entrances was discussed. Don Reid of Metro Public Works indicated that most of the downtown streets had traffic lights at intervals that would prevent speeds much in excess of 25. He recommended

that speed limit signage be considered only outside of the tightly signalized areas. Also discussed were reduced speeds in the vicinity of Greenway trail heads and park entrances. **Next steps:** Public Works will forward a downtown map indicating traffic lights to BPAC, and members of BPAC will review it and recommend streets to MPW to conduct speed studies for. Public Works is identifying the Park/Greenway entrances and will initiate speed studies at those areas.

- d) **Korean Veterans Blvd Bike Lanes.** Korean Veterans Blvd. is now scheduled to get bike lanes, from Shelby and 5th street across the interstate and river to 1st Avenue. Radinger said there is sufficient room on the roadway to have protected bike lanes from 4th street to Interstate Drive (across the Interstate), and then from 2nd street across the KVB to downtown. The protected lanes would be on both sides of the road, rather than on one side as for Woodland. Bollards could be installed at a later time, but the initial design would include a stripped separation zone of 18 inches to 3 feet in width, with the bike lane and separation zone totaling 7 feet on each side.
 - e) **Bike Counters:** Public Works has received bids on “bike counters” and have 3 quotes. There is funding allocated and Radinger expects to obtain three counters this spring. The counters are movable, and likely will cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000 each.
 - f) **Bike Racks at Public Works.** Bike racks were scheduled to be installed at the Public Works Headquarters (on 5th street in early January and involved 2 racks in front of the building and 2 in the parking lot in back, with a total capacity of 8 bikes.
 - g) **Buffered bike lanes near county edge.** Metro Public Works is working with TDOT to put in buffered bike lane in the northern part of the county on Gallatin Road from Myatt Drive to Old Hickory Blvd (2.5 mile stretch), and then regular bike lanes extending from the Old Hickory-Gallatin Road intersection along Old Hickory Blvd to Dickerson Pike (2.5 miles). In addition, in the southern part of the county buffered bike lanes are being placed along Nolensville Pike from Harding Place to Old Hickory Blvd. (2.6 miles).
5. **Planning.** Michael Briggs from the Metro Planning Department shared a draft ordinance setting bike parking requirements. Briggs confirmed that the ordinance complies with Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) guidelines. The discussion included affirmation that the ordinance was only for new construction. **Next Steps:** Briggs indicated that he will have several other metro departments review the draft legislation (follow-up meeting occurred on 1-16-14), and then once a final draft is ready seek endorsement by BPAC. The Planning Department would then find a Council sponsor for the legislation.
6. **B Cycle Report.** Keith Rawls forwarded a statistical report on B Cycle use, including a comparison to other cities in which B-cycle was introduced. Nashville leads the other B-cycle cities in memberships, with the exception of Denver. (See report attached to Kim Hawkins email of 12-16-13.) Some highlights of the B-Cycle report includes the movement of a kiosk from Deaderick St. to 12th South and the introduction of solar power at one of the kiosks. The cost of a business installing a kiosk varies from \$39,000 to \$60,000, and includes a 3 year agreement.
7. **Bike Summit.** Nora Kern (newly hired program director at Walk Bike Nashville) and Austin Bowman (Bike Summit Planning Committee Chair) reported on the Bike Summit

to be held in Nashville this spring (May 14-16). The lineup of speakers is still being developed, but the Assistant Commissioner for Transportation for New York (Kim Wiley-Schwartz) and the Executive Director of the Adventure Cycling Association (Jim Sayer) have committed.

8. **Music City Moves Grant.** Adams Carroll (Walk Bike Program Manager) gave an update on the Music City Moves Grant, which has been awarded to Walk Bike Nashville. The contract was executed November 20, 2013, and provides four years of funding, at \$125,000 per year. A new executive director for Walk Bike Nashville has been hired (Liz North) under funding from the grant, following a national search. One component of the grant is safe routes to school, and work on that has begun. The grant will support some existing Walk Bike Nashville programs, and some other new programs. In addition to Safe Routes to School, the new programs include safe routes to shops (helping seniors stay active and have access to basic needs), safe cycling classes, and the travel green initiative (consulting with businesses and government). The grant will also support the Tennessee Bike Summit (see item 7 above).
9. **Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge Closure Policy.** John Norris presented a draft policy on closing of the Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge for events. The revised draft (following input from BPAC members) will be forwarded later for BPAC member review. There was discussion concerning minimizing closure time, costs, clarifying an alternative route, closure during set-up, and procedures concerning cyclists and pedestrians during partial closure. **Next Steps:** BPAC will vote on the revised draft and send the BPAC approved policy to Metro Public Works.
10. **MNPD: Bike-Ped conflicts on Belmont.** Police officers Harold Burke, Mike Gilliland, & Marlene Purdue led a discussion about conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. The issue had been brought to the attention of BPAC by some cyclists who alleged runners were running in the bike lanes, despite an adjacent sidewalk, creating a hazard. The representatives from the police department provided background information (the law) about bike lane usage by pedestrians and runners. According to the law, runners are treated no differently than walkers, and should be on a sidewalk if it exists, and only on the road running or walking in the direction facing traffic (with other conditions) in the absence of sidewalks. A wide ranging discussion was held, with no definitive conclusion reached, other than the assertion that walkers and joggers should obey the law. The police representatives expressed a reluctance to issue citations (or warnings?), since most runners don't have IDs on them, and would have to be taken downtown and held for a while as a result. **Next steps:** To be determined.
11. **Bike Month Events:** Adams Carroll highlighted bike month (May) events and the related web site. He indicated that there were 50 events last year, and already 75 events this year, including events sponsored by "partners." So far, there are 20 partners for this year's events. The web site for information is: www.nashvillebikemonth.com. Among the most popular events, Bike to Work Day is scheduled for Friday, May 17, and the Tour de Nash is scheduled for Saturday, May 18.
12. **Miscellaneous items:** Kim Hawkins asked whether there would be bike racks in front of the Convention Center (the North side), and Clifton Ogden said he would investigate. Hawkins also said there was some redesign of the proposed foot/bike bridge crossing the gulch to include better bike features and handicapped access.
13. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6 pm.